



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts  
Executive Office of Housing and Economic Development  
Press Release**

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## **Baker-Polito Administration Announces Funding for Affordable Housing in Northampton**

*Award will support the development 55 affordable housing units and commercial space in Northampton's downtown*

Boston – January 10, 2017 – Today the Baker-Polito Administration announced a funding commitment to support the Valley Community Development Corporation's redevelopment of the former Northampton Lumber Yard property, into 55 units of affordable family housing. The Department of Housing and Community Development (DHCD) is awarding the project \$1.79 million in state and federal low-income housing tax credits and \$3.3 million in direct rental housing subsidies. The affordable housing award will leverage \$2.5 million in state-funded public infrastructure improvements in the area, awarded through the MassWorks Infrastructure Program.

"We are strengthening cities and towns across the Commonwealth, by partnering with local stakeholders to deliver on their unique visions for community development," **said Governor Charlie Baker**. "The tools we are bringing to bear in Northampton, in public infrastructure and affordable housing funding, will allow this city to create a dynamic new entrance to its downtown, while opening up new housing options for families."

"Northampton has displayed a remarkable level of collaboration and partnership to craft its Pleasant Street corridor master plan, and we are pleased to partner with the city to help deliver on that plan's promise," **said Lieutenant Governor Karyn Polito**. "We are growing strong regional economies, by empowering communities to pursue long-term planning, and then providing them with the necessary resources to reach their goals for economic growth and new housing development."

Valley CDC's Lumberyard Apartments project will create 55 units of affordable rental housing. The project will reserve 11 units for extremely low-income families and individuals, including families and individuals transitioning out of homelessness, and those at extreme risk of becoming homeless. The City of Northampton is supporting the Lumberyard redevelopment through Community Preservation Act and Community Development Block Grant funding.

The affordable housing development award advances the revitalization of Northampton's Pleasant Street corridor. In November, the Baker-Polito Administration [announced](#) a \$2.5 million MassWorks Infrastructure Program grant for the City of Northampton, to support streetscape and public infrastructure improvements at the gateway to the city's downtown.

In addition to investments in the Lumberyard Apartments and MassWorks infrastructure improvements along the Pleasant Street corridor, DHCD has also [awarded](#) affordable housing funds to Live 155, a 70-unit mixed-income housing development by HAP Housing on Pleasant Street. Once completed, the Pleasant Street corridor redevelopment will add a total of 125 new housing units and over 8,000 square feet of commercial space, and generate over \$30 million in private investment in new housing.

"The Lumberyard Apartments will help deliver on Northampton's long-term sustainable growth plans, and provide families in need with affordable housing," **said Undersecretary of Housing and Community Development Chrystal Kornegay**. "We are proud to support this dynamic project, which will deliver new housing to working families, and advance broader community development in Northampton's downtown."

"This is a great project. Building more affordable family housing in Northampton will help strengthen our economy, our community, and our families," **said Senate President Stan Rosenberg**.

**State Representative Peter V. Kocot added**, "I want to thank the Baker Administration for their commitment to substantially increasing affordable housing options in Western Massachusetts. Secretary Ash and Lieutenant Governor Polito have been great partners in helping my communities grow and prosper."

Investments in affordable housing developments and renovations reflect the Baker-Polito Administration's commitment to ensuring that all residents have access to affordable housing throughout Massachusetts. In May 2016, the Administration [unveiled](#) a 5-year capital budget plan that includes a \$1.1 billion commitment to increasing housing production, an 18 percent funding increase for mixed-income housing production, and affordable housing preservation. In May 2016, the Administration and MassHousing [committed](#) \$100 million, to support the construction of 1,000 new workforce housing units. Since 2015, the Baker-Polito Administration has provided funding to create and preserve 2,911 units of affordable housing, including 885 deeply affordable units for at-risk populations.

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